

REMARKS

Claims 2-9, 14-18, 20-24, 26-33, 38-42, and 44-48 remain in this application. Claims 6-9, 22-24, 30-33, and 46-48 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 10-13, 19, 25, 34-37, and 43 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2, 4, 5, 14-16, 20, 21, 26, 28, 29, 38-40, 44, and 45 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, 14-18, 20, 21, 26, 27, 38-42, 44, and 45 for depending from rejected base claims, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten claims 2, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 26, 38, 39, 40, 44, and 45 as independent claims including all limitations of their base and intervening claims. Applicant therefore believes that claims 2, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 26, 38, 39, 40, 44, and 45 are in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 17, 18, 27, 41, and 42 depend from one of claims 2, 16, 26, and 40. In view of the patentability of claims 2, 16, 26, and 40 as amended, applicant believes that claims 3, 17, 18, 27, 41, and 42 are also patentable.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10-13, 19, 25, 28, 29, 34-37, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by Evans (US Patent 4,893,126). Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 10-13, 19, 25, 34-37, and 43. Claims 4, 5, 28, and 29 have been amended to depend from one of claims 2 and 26. In view of the patentability of claims 2 and 26 as amended, applicant believes that claims 4, 5, 28, and 29 are also patentable.


Applicant has studied the additional prior art made of record by the Examiner. Applicant believes the claims in the present patent application to be patentable over the cited prior art as well, whether taken alone or in combination with other prior art.

Applicant believes that the above amendments and remarks are fully responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and

remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims currently pending in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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